

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The An-information~~ recording medium preform according to Claim ~~[[1]] 9~~, wherein a corner part formed by converging the first inner wall surface and the first surface ~~between an inner side surface forming the second cavity and the first surface~~ is beveled.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The An-information~~ recording medium preform according to Claim ~~[[1]] 9~~, wherein the second cavity comprises ~~is formed with~~ a depth in a range of 50 to 150 μm ~~inclusive~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The An-information~~ recording medium preform according to Claim ~~[[1]] 9~~, wherein the first cavity comprises a second portion ring shaped concave whose outer diameter is equal to a diameter of an inner base surface of the first cavity, is formed in the inner a base surface of the first cavity along the inner wall surface of the first cavity, the base surface of the first cavity being constructed of a surface of the part to be punched out on a second surface side.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The An-information~~ recording medium preform according to Claim ~~[[1]] 9~~, wherein a temporary center hole is formed in a central part of

a the part to be punched out, the temporary center hole comprising with a smaller diameter than the diameter of the inner wall surface of the first cavity ~~an inner base surface of the first cavity, is formed in a central part of the inner base surface of the first cavity.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The An-information recording medium preform according to Claim 5, comprising wherein a cylindrical ring protruding from a rim of the temporary center hole in a surface of the part to be punched out on a first surface side, the cylindrical ring comprising:

an whose outer diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the inner wall surface of the first cavity; and center-mounting hole and whose inner diameter is equal to or larger than the diameter of the temporary center hole and whose

a central axis that is coincident with ~~matches or approximately matches a center of the temporary center hole is formed so as to protrude from the first surface.~~

7. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an information recording medium comprising steps of: forming at least one type of functional layer on a first surface of an information recording medium preform, in a central part of the first surface of which a second cavity has been formed as one of a ring shaped concave and a circular recess and in a central part of a second surface that differs to the first surface of which a first cavity has been formed as a recess; connecting the first cavity and the second cavity by pressing in a cylindrical center hole punching out blade into an inner base surface of the first cavity along an inner side surface forming the first cavity to manufacture an

information recording medium for which at least one of recording and reproduction of information is possible and in a central part of which a center mounting hole, a first surface side part of which is composed of the second cavity and a second surface side part of which is composed of the first cavity, is formed.

8. (Withdrawn) A manufacturing apparatus for forming an information recording medium, comprising:

a sputtering apparatus that forms at least one type of functional layer on a first surface of an information recording medium preform, in a central part of the first surface of which a second cavity has been formed as one of a ring shaped concave and a circular recess and in a central part of a second surface that differs to the first surface of which a first cavity has been formed as a recess;

a center hole forming device that connects the first cavity and the second cavity by pressing in a cylindrical center hole punching out blade into an inner base surface of the first cavity along an inner side surface forming the first cavity to manufacture an information recording medium for which at least one of recording and reproduction of information is possible and in a central part of which a center mounting hole, a first surface side part of which is composed of the second cavity and a second surface side part of which is composed of the first cavity, is formed.

9. (New) A recording medium preform comprising:

a first surface and a second surface;

a first cavity formed in a circular planar form in the second surface; and

a second cavity formed in the first surface at a position corresponding to the first cavity, the second cavity being formed on either side of a part to be punched out, wherein the second cavity comprises a first concave portion formed in a planar ring form, the first concave portion comprising:

a first inner wall surface whose diameter is substantially equal to a diameter of an inner wall surface of the first cavity; and

a base surface substantially transverse with the first inner wall surface.

10. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 6, wherein the first concave portion comprises a second inner wall surface that converges with the base surface of the second cavity, the second inner wall surface being located between the first inner wall surface of the second cavity and an outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical ring, the second inner wall surface being tapered such that a distance between points on the second inner wall surface and points on the first inner wall surface vary proportionately to a distance between the points on the second inner wall surface and points on the base surface.

11. (New) The recording medium preform according to Claim 6, wherein the first concave portion comprises the first inner wall surface of the second cavity, an outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical ring, and the base surface, the base surface converging with the first inner wall surface and the outer circumferential surface of the cylindrical ring.